

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This preliminary amendment is submitted to support the filing of a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). The divisional application claims priority to application Serial No. 09/971,261, filed July 26, 2001.

The specification is amended to include the paragraph directed to the claim of priority to U.S. application No. 09/917,261. Claims 7-17 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully request the entry of this preliminary amendment. Should any further aspects of the application remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Joshua W. Korver
Reg. No. 51,894
Direct Line: 206.342.6257

